



**A**s a steward of our nation's coastal and marine environments, NOAA addresses immediate and long-term environmental threats through its Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R). Scientists are on call around-the-clock to provide the U.S. Coast Guard and other emergency responders with critical information to help minimize environmental damage caused by oil and hazardous chemical spills. Environmental experts assess ecosystems compromised by historic or ongoing contamination and work with other organizations to conduct remediation, restoration, and monitoring of critical natural resources.

### Protecting and Restoring North Carolina's Coastal and Marine Areas

NOAA trust resources in North Carolina include the largest estuarine system of any Atlantic Coast state. This 2.3 million acre network of habitats provides productive and diverse habitats for finfish, shellfish, and other wildlife, as well as recreation for millions of people. These resources are threatened by hazardous discharges from past and present industrial activity. The state map on the reverse page shows key response and restoration activities in the past year.

### Emergency Response

NOAA is working with the U.S. Coast Guard to update the coastal North Carolina area contingency plan for oil spills. The plan includes detailed information about response resources available in the area and describes the roles and responsibilities of each responding government agency during an incident. NOAA also provides training for hazardous material and oil spill response.

### Assessment and Restoration

Pulp and papermaking activities at the Weyerhaeuser (now Dotmar Company) site in Plymouth have contaminated the Roanoke River and western Albemarle Sound with heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins, and other hazardous wastes. NOAA worked with responsible

parties, the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to plan remediation of existing contamination and to restore natural resources and recreational fishing. An upgrade of the plant's cooling water system was recently completed to reduce the number of fish killed by entrainment in the intake.



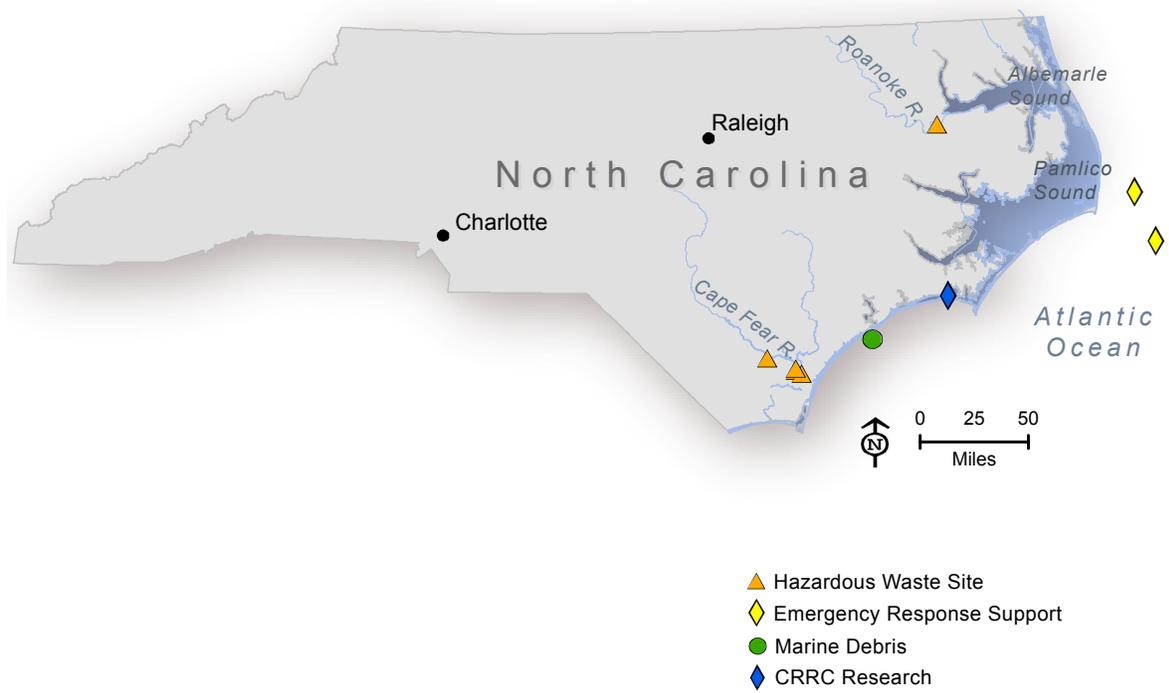
*Albemarle Sound*

### Marine Debris

NOAA is working with local interested parties to survey and recover lost or abandoned black sea bass traps in the U.S. South Atlantic Fishery Management Area. The project will employ video imaging to enable systematic trap removal by recovery divers. The survey data collected will be presented to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and used in public outreach activities to increase awareness of derelict fishing gear and to encourage environmental stewardship.

### Research

NOAA collaborates with other federal, state, and local programs to develop innovative approaches to protecting marine and estuarine environments through research and synthesis of information. The Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) brings together the resources of a research-oriented university and the field expertise of OR&R to conduct and oversee basic and applied research, conduct outreach, and encourage strategic partnerships in spill response, assessment, and restoration.




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*NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration—Protecting our Coastal Environment*

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**For further information about NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration,  
please call (301) 713-2989 or visit our Web site at  
[response.restoration.noaa.gov](http://response.restoration.noaa.gov)**

Banner photo courtesy of Captain Albert E. Theberge, NOAA Corps (ret).

